

most Americans, I guess, it is of cultural significance to many of the people of Guam, and I suspect also my friends from the other islands of Micronesia. I certainly support this change in the law.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation also addresses the continued problem caused by the migration of citizens from the freely associated States, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The residents from these entities migrate to Guam and other Pacific jurisdictions in the United States. Now, while Guam and Hawaii need more than a report to assist them with the impact of this migration, I do hope the report will provide the basis upon which substantial assistance can and will be provided, not only to Guam, but to all the affected Pacific jurisdictions.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) and our ranking Democrat, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), for their efforts in working with all the parties involved, and to get this legislation to the House, especially I want to commend the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), for his leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from American Samoa for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I too rise in strong support of H.R. 2462, and I want to congratulate and commend my good friend from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for his tireless efforts and hard work over the several years it took to get this bill to this point today.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 2462, I support the efforts of the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) to return land that was taken by the U.S. Government from the people of Guam during World War II. H.R. 2462 will address this issue by providing a process for the Government of Guam to receive lands from the U.S. Government for specified public purposes by giving Guam the right of first refusal of declared Federal excess lands by the General Services administrator prior to it being made available to any other Federal agency.

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Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam have suffered greatly because of their love for this country. Guamanians have been under U.S. sovereignty since 1898. During World War II, Japanese forces invaded and took control of Guam for 32 months. The people of Guam suffered

atrocities, including executions, rapes, beatings, imprisonment, forced labor and forced marches, primarily due to their continued loyalty to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam have been seeking to have the issues of the return of Guam lands and restitution to Guamanians who suffered atrocities in World War II addressed for more than a decade now. It is time that they be resolved. How much longer must we make the people of Guam wait? As for myself, I pledge to do all that I can to assist the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) in finding a resolution to these issues that is acceptable to the people of Guam.

I ask my colleagues to also support the people of Guam and to support this legislation.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to again thank everyone who worked hard with the staffs of both sides, my own staff, Nick Minella, who is also leaving. With that, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) for his support and kind words. I would like to thank again the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for their support on this effort.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2462—the Guam Omnibus Opportunities Act—of which I am a cosponsor along with the Chairman of the Resources Committee. I recognize and congratulate our colleague from Guam, Mr. UNDERWOOD, for his hard work and collaboration with the staff of the Committee to craft legislation which addresses some very complex issues facing the people of Guam. Some may not realize how difficult a job it is for the delegates from the territories to move legislation through the Congress and I, for one, am glad that we are considering Mr. UNDERWOOD's legislation today.

The Guam Omnibus Opportunities Act is legislation which, among other things, addresses two very important issues for the people of Guam—the future return of federal excess lands on Guam and the expansion of the island's economy. H.R. 2462 puts into place, a process wherein the government of Guam is given first consideration in the return of federal excess land. As chairman of the Resources Committee during the 103rd Congress, we passed legislation, authored by Mr. UNDERWOOD, which identified 3,200 acres of federal excess lands no longer needed by the federal government for return to the government of Guam to benefit the people of Guam. This was the first step in helping to address the very unique circumstances of Guam's history and the federal acquisition of 1/3 of the island after WWII for purposes of national defense. Currently, the return of excess federal land is governed by the General Service Administration's land return process which can completely prevent Guam from regaining the land, in favor of other federal interests. H.R. 2462 builds upon the success of our work during

the 103rd Congress and establishes a process in which federal property no longer necessary for the continuing operations of the defense of our nation is returned to the government of Guam for uses consistent with benefitting the island's community.

H.R. 2462 also contains a novel approach to increase investment into Guam by allowing the government to match the withholding tax rates of foreign investors to equal the same rate offered in U.S. treaties for foreign investors doing business in the 50 states. Guam's U.S. "mirror image" tax system was instituted with the passage of its organic act in 1950. The Internal Revenue Code requires a withholding tax rate of 30 percent on foreign investors with the exception of withholding tax rates negotiated in U.S. treaties with foreign nations. These rates are often lowered to encourage foreign investment into the United States. It is often the case, however, that the definition of the United States does not include Guam or the other U.S. territories. The exclusion of the territories, has for better or worse, penalized Guam in this instance since the majority of their private sector development has come from foreign sources. Amending Guam's Organic Act to equal the withholding tax rate under U.S. treaties will boost their attraction to foreign investors and benefit the island's long-term private sector diversification.

I am mindful that over the past several years, the economy of Guam has spiraled downwards due to decreased military presence and the slumping economies in Asia. I am happy that we are attempting to address these issues in terms of making future excess federal land available to the island government for public benefit uses and the lifting of restrictive taxes on foreign investors. I thank Mr. UNDERWOOD again for his legislation and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2462—the Guam Omnibus Opportunities Act.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2462, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material on H.R. 2919, S. 1629, H.R. 3676, H.R. 4275, S. 1910, H.R. 2833, and H.R. 2462, the last seven bills just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.